

Statement by Geronimo ji Jaga

September 13, 1989

In this cold Folsom cage, my heart is warmed by your coming together in celebration of my Birthday. And if this gathering brings about one iota of sincere unity, then let me wish for you a most prosperous and Happy Birthday in commemoration of your Births and Rebirths into our Sacred Struggle for Freedom and Justice and Self-Determination.

Just as the Biological Birth comes only after mama's pangs and suffering and self-sacrifice, so it must be in Social Rebirths which come after the pangs of oppression and repression from which we are delivered into the ranks of the Righteous. This phenomenal birth process is not confined to our particular set of circumstances... it is happening thruout the world where people still try and enslave and exploit the lives and destinies of others, such as the Borinquen [Puerto Rican] Peoples from which two months ago i was summoned to assist our Borinquen Brotha and Leader, Filiberto Ojeda Rios in his efforts to wrest justice from the jaws of the imperialist judiciary.

During our discussions, Filiberto and i, along with the mighty Luis Nieves-Falcon, went into many aspects of International and domestic laws which govern our particular and collective situations under the common yoke of this "american pimp" who constantly strives to strangle any signs of birth, growth and development of any who strive to be free.

There's not time to convey the bulk of those important discussions, but i want to touch on the Borinquen example to show some glaring parallels between their Struggle and the Struggles of New Afrikans, Native Americans and others, from which we can learn much. We all are engaged in National Liberation Struggles which is the sine qua non [indispensible condition] and basis of our ideological understanding. This

analogy indicates numerous parallels in itself which can be studied, but i want to get to what is seen as one of the most important endeavors at this time: the great democratic quest for the almighty Plebiscite -- that long sought for vote which would ascertain once and for all our national referendum on Nationhood.

At present, our New Afrikan Nation is under another vile siege in the form of the chemical-biological warfare's latest tactics known as crack, AIDS and such. These serious genocidal attacks against our Peoples, along with all the others from infant mortality to destruction of the Family unit, cannot adequately be resolved as long as we continue to depend on the oppressors and the very systems and suasions which are part and parcel of the very problems we suffer. Rather, these problems can only be resolved as we mount the Struggle to control our own National Destiny.

The actual involvement in this Struggle, if just campaigning for the election for the Plebiscite, will create and forge within us a New Morality with a strong sense of self-worth, after we realize that we are part of the second largest population of Afrikans in the world; that we have the highest literacy; the largest economy; a common history, common culture and super legal land rights as shown by the Confiscation Acts and many other legal predicates... All of which constitutes the wherewithal for a Great Nation.

After all these realizations, the People will have tangible and winnable goals, and they will be moved by their own conscious motivations. "This is the Answer ye Afrikans!" For as long as we remain in this doped-up, dominated status, we ain't gonna care. As long as we maintain this slavery-imposed "Fiddler-Chicken George-Toby" identity, we will continue to be self-alienated, divided selves rent with schizoid attitudes forever in conflict from deep within, fueling that self-

destructive motor which renders us not only a danger to ourselves, but to our Families and our New African Nation.

The identity crisis must be resolved once and for all!!! No longer will our leaders, our people die on the streets if we embark upon this illustrious road where we will be our own determiners of reality "calling our own shots."

So let's initiate a campaign for the future with slogans showing that if Imari Obedele & Sista Dara were our Presidents, there wouldn't be genocide in our Nation.

If Phavia Kujichagulia & Mujah Shakir were our Prime Ministers, we would flourish.

If Chokwe Lumumba was our Attorney General, the judicial system would be fair and humane.

If Sundiata Acoli & Sekou Odinga led our Joint Chiefs of Staff, we'd never fight in unjust wars.

If Nuh was our Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, then gay, lesbian and reproductive rights would be guaranteed.

If Dhoruba & Assata were our Secretaries of State, we'd have a functional society.

If Dr. Mutulu Shakur was our Surgeon General, there would be no more ill health in our Nation.

Many of you who are present here, who have babies and toddlers today, may very well be nurturing the future leaders of our own Nation if we move in time, full speed ahead, with the tasks of regaining our historical personality and affirm that vote from which no one can deny us our rightful place among the Nations of the world.

I reiterate, "this is the Answer to all our problems" when we give our mandates to our own who will care based on authentic patriotic reasons and not capitalistic one's, who will be motivated by the love of their own People's Nation, and not by money.

The many progressive and Revolutionary people of European descent who aid in our National Liberation Struggle are welcomed, and should be saluted with the same fervor which our ancestors honored John Brown, Levi Coffin who founded the Underground Railroad, and many more, all the way to the present including Marilyn Buck who has sacrificed her freedom for National Liberation. Let's not fall into the ignorant trap of reverse racism, for as long as we keep our National Integrity intact there will be no danger to our inner-unity. And as long as we glean the wisdom of Cheik Anto Diop, Ivan Van Sertima and Asa Hilliard, never will we make the blunder of racial manipulations.

So let us have more Birthday celebrations, not to "party" in the manner of this drug-ridden, backwards culture, but in the manner of the new man and new woman, where we dance to the rhythms of earnest sounds, to Struggles for Freedom, to festoon our every effort at nurturing the socially newborn into National maturity.

"The wheels of law turn without pause. In the wink of an eye, the universe throws off its muddy clothes. For ten thousand miles the landscape spreads out like a beautiful brocade.

"Light breezes, smiling flowers. High in the trees amongst the sparkling leaves, all the birds sing at once!

"People and animals rise up REBORN! [Ho Chi Minh]

As for this pitiful prison situation, after twenty years i
can still ask, in the words of our late Liberation Leader,
Huey P. Newton: "Prison, where is thy victory?"

Thanks to all of you here tonite....

Native: Aho! Borinquen: Independencia! Afrikan: Amandla!